

ENDOSCOPE SHEATH ASSEMBLIES HAVING AN ATTACHED
BIOPSY SAMPLING DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods for obtaining biopsy samples using an endoscope assembly are disclosed. In one embodiment, an assembly adapted for use with an endoscopic insertion tube includes a sheath having a body portion adapted to at least partially encapsulate a distal portion of the insertion tube, and a biopsy sampling device attached to the sheath and including a collection member proximate an end of the body portion. The biopsy sampling device may be attached to the body portion of the sheath, or alternately, may be attached to an enclosed distal end of the sheath. The assembly may also include a cover attached to the sheath and positionable proximate the biopsy sampling device. An actuation member may be attached to the cover and may extend along the sheath, allowing the operator to actuate the cover between a covered position and a collecting position.